



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Commercial Fishing Regulations—Reef Fish

The gillnet fishery for Gulf group king mackerel in or from the Gulf EEZ is closed each fishing year from July 1 until 6:00 a.m. on the day after the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal holiday. The gillnet fishery also is closed during all subsequent weekends and observed Federal holidays, except for the first weekend following the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, which will remain open to the gillnet fishery provided a notification of closure of that fishery has not been filed. Weekend closures are effective from 6:00 a.m. Saturday to 6:00 a.m. Monday. Holiday closures are effective from 6:00 a.m. on the observed Federal holiday to 6:00 a.m. the following day.

Species	Minimum Size Limit	Trip Limit	Quotas/Closed Seasons
Spanish Mackerel	12" fork length	None	Quota: 5,187 million lbs Gulf group. Season opens 4/1 and closes when quota is filled.
Reef Fish			
Red Snapper	15" total length	2,000 lbs/trip with Class 1 red snapper license. 200 lbs/trip with Class 2 red snapper license Commercial harvest prohibited without a Class 1 or 2 red snapper license in addition to a reef fish vessel permit.	Red snapper fishery closed during January. Quota = 4.65 million lbs—3.06 million lbs on a Feb. 1 opening (open noon on the 1st until noon on the 10th of each month until sub-quota filled), remainder on an Oct. 1 opening (open noon on the 1st until noon on the 10th of each month until sub-quota is reached, or Dec 31).
Vermilion Lane	11" total length	None	Commercial closure April 22—May 31 for Vermilion
Gray (Mangrove)	8" total length	None	
Mutton	12" total length	None	
Yellowtail	16" total length	None	
Mahogany	12" total length	None	
Schoolmaster	12" total length	None	
Dog	12" total length	None	
Cubera	12" total length	None	
Blackfin	None	None	
Queen	None	None	
Silk	None	None	
Wenchman	None	None	
Tilefish	None	None	440,000 lbs gutted weight

2203 N. Lois Avenue
Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607

Phone: 813-348-1630
Fax: 813-348-1711
E-mail: gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org

November, 2005

For Species Managed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Reef Fish continued

Species	Size Limit	Trip Limit	Quotas/Closed Seasons
Deep-Water Groupers			
Misty	None	6,000 lbs gutted weight trip limit for all groupers, deepwater and shallow-water, combined	Quota: 1.02 million lbs gutted weight Includes scamp after shallow-water grouper quota is filled.
Snowy	None		
Yellowedge	None		
Warsaw	None		
Speckled Hind	None		
Shallow-Water Groupers			
Black	24" total length	Quota: 8.80 million lbs gutted weight for all shallow-water groupers in aggregate.	
Gag	24" total length		
Red	20" total length	A red grouper quota of 5.31 mp gutted weight is included in the shallow-water grouper quota.	
Yellowfin	20" total length		
Scamp	16" total length	Shallow-water grouper quota closure occurs when either the shallow-water grouper or red grouper quota is reached, whichever occurs first.	
Yellowmouth	None		
Rock Hind	None		
Red Hind	None		
		Seasonal closure on commercial harvest and a prohibition on sale of gag, black, and red grouper from 2/15—3/15.	
Protected Groupers			
Goliath (Jewfish)	Harvest Prohibited		
Nassau			
Species	Size Limit	Trip Limit	Quota/Closed Seasons
Gray Triggerfish	12" total length	None	None
Hogfish	12" fork length	None	None
Greater Amberjack	36" fork length	None	Commercial closure March, April and May
Lesser Amberjack	14" - 22" fork length slot limit	None	None
Banded Rudderfish	14" - 22" fork length slot limit	None	None